

forty-five to sixty-five cents on the one hundred dollars of the capital. He has to pay the United States, at present, three to five per cent. upon the interest. All this is to come out of the six dollars which he is to receive for the one hundred dollar bond. It reduces it to about five per cent. A Baltimore and Ohio railroad bond, which does not yield above five per cent., is selling to-day at one hundred and fifteen or one hundred and sixteen dollars. What does this prove?

Mr. CUSHING. How much did the same bond sell for three years ago, when money paid the same amount of interest? Less than forty dollars.

Mr. CHAMBERS. That has about as much to do with this question as what it will sell for three years hence. Three years ago a very different state of things existed. They were in debt, had all sorts of obligations imposed upon them, and they had been struggling to make a dividend. I say as a fact within my own personal knowledge—and I appeal to gentlemen everywhere about me to confirm it—that money has been abundant.—Your newspapers have been advertising it. Every lawyer in the country I suppose has had offers from gentlemen of funds in Baltimore to loan out money at six per cent. interest. There are now outstanding offers ready for the acceptance of anybody who will give ample security in real estate, to loan money at six per cent.

Mr. SANDS. Will the gentleman allow me to read some quotations from this morning's paper? "Baltimore city 6 per cents., due in 1870, 116; United States 6 per cent. bonds, coupons, 106½; 5-20s, 111." These are all six per cent. securities.

Mr. CHAMBERS. These are six per cent. securities; and in these cases the parties who own the stock have to pay the taxes. I say further that money may now be had at five per cent., I believe in abundance, by persons who can give real estate security, the only security that is now thought to be perfectly safe. I have lent to gentlemen myself a few dollars, and my contract is that it shall not be paid; I will not allow it to be paid until the circulation becomes more settled, and money has a more definite character than at present. I have been applied to within a very short time afterwards to receive the money, because the gentleman could go and borrow it at five per cent.

Mr. SANDS. If the gentleman will excuse the interruption, I will say that here is an offer in to-day's paper of \$40,000 at five per cent.

Mr. DANIEL. On what sort of security?

Mr. CHAMBERS. Another argument of the gentleman was that gold was only the representative of value because stamped by the government.

Mr. CUSHING. I said that that made its circulating value; but that did not give it its actual value.

Mr. CHAMBERS. The government stamp cannot make a circulating medium. You may indorse a man of ample means, and your indorsement does not have much effect. Does the government stamping ingots make them a circulating medium? It is a mistake. Gold has an intrinsic value. Silver has an intrinsic value. That value is derived from the fact that there is a limited amount. Greenbacks have not that value; because the authorities in Washington can manufacture them as fast as they can get them printed. I do not believe anybody participates in the apprehension of the gentleman from Baltimore city that gold is to be so plenty that we shall look for some more precious metal. It has been the standard of value for all time, and I think it will continue so for all time to come.

I therefore say that the evidence is all around us that six per cent. is enough. We have always been limited to that. The country is habituated to it. There has been, so far as I know, no complaint about it. Money is abundant at that price. The very moment you advance it to seven per cent. interest it will be all the other way. There is no mistake about that. But I say that is not a just rate. I say that six per cent. is enough. And I say, above all, do not legalize the extravagant amounts which young men, indiscreet persons, of unripe judgment, and choleric or any other habits, of strong anticipations about future profits will agree to pay, and thus enable that class of people thoroughly to ruin themselves for the benefit of others who are certainly not particularly entitled to claim our protection. The additional section which I propose, I take it for granted would have been adopted by the committee if it had been before them—the provision for the payment of taxes. I intend to move it as a separate section if not adopted as an amendment to this.

Mr. NEGLEY. The gentleman from Kent (Mr. Chambers) seems to argue that in order to prevent the prodigal and reckless young man from spending his patrimony, it is necessary to prevent him from borrowing money at a higher rate than six per cent. That I understand to be his proposition, and that is the reason he gives why there ought to be a prohibition upon the lending of money throughout the State of Maryland, to confine it to six per cent., because if that be not done some extravagant and reckless young man may go to a money lender and agree, in order to get money, to mortgage his property, or pledge it in some way, so that he may have the means by which to squander his estate. Does the gentleman forget that we ought to prevent that same young man from going into the market and buying at an extravagant price a pair of fine horses or a magnificent carriage?